

REMARKS

The claims before the Examiner are claim 1, as presently amended, claims 2, 4, and 7-10. It is believed that as the number of claims presently before the Examiner is less than the number of claims originally filed, that no additional fee is required.

It is also believed that as the Final Office Action was mailed on June 3, 2003 and this response is being filed within the shortened statutory period of three (3) months, that no extension fees are required.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found on page 12 of the specification and in old claim 3.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. The high range percentage can add up to more than 100% as the artisan knows that certain values will not always be at their maximum value.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner has stated that the Applicants have referred to the Atkins product and "it appears that Applicants are using the Atkins formula to create the claimed product." As pointed out on page 2 of the application, one aspect of the present invention relates to the development of a good tasting and physically stable liquid or ready-to-drink (RTD) nutritional product that follows the Atkins diet. For the Examiner's information, the twelve (12) month stability data for

the vanilla and chocolate products shows a good smooth texture with no creaming and no sediment. Challenges in producing such a RTD enteral formula include finding substitutes for simple sugars to make the product taste good, using a blend of proteins that do not cause processing viscosity or shelf-life stability issues at the high per serving levels desired, and a product that possesses soy protein and a specific mixture of vegetable oils that has good shelf life, physical stability, mouthfeel and taste. It is Applicants' position that it is the unique combination of products as presently claimed that results in a RTD that is both pleasing to taste and physically stable over long periods of storage.

The Examiner then goes on to recite that the nutrition fact list for Café au Lait shake was obtained from the Internet and "...provides the ingredients and amounts." Reference U has no dates, is not tied to the press release of Reference V, and further fails to disclose a ready-to-drink nutritional product that contains a fat component that comprises at least 3% of calories from omega-6 fats and at least 0.5% of calories from omega-3 fats. Further, the suggestive combination of References U and V fail to disclose a ready-to-drink nutritional product that comprises 53-62% by weight of calories from protein, wherein the protein is a mixture of soy protein isolate and calcium caseinate. Reference U fails to suggest any kind of omega-3 or omega-6 content and has no soy protein.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-10 under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by Atkins Shake Mix (New York Times, January 11, 2000) (Reference X) in light of the Atkins Cappuccino Shake Mix label (Reference U) is traversed. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Reference X does not set forth a date when the Atkins mix was used. There is no product description in Reference X and it doesn't even mention the cappuccino product. The Reference U label discloses the ingredients, however, for the reasons that Reference W is

insufficient, also apply to Reference U. More specifically, there is no mention of omega-3 fatty acids and omega-6 fatty acids in the product and no mention of soy protein.

Applicants strenuously object to the Examiner's improper attempt to combine these two references in an improper manner. With no information tying Reference X to Reference U, the Examiner has engaged in an improper combination of prior art. In light of the amendment to the claims wherein at least 3% of the calories of the fat component or omega-6 fats, and at least 5% of calories are omega-3 fats and the use of sugar substitutes, precludes References X and U from making obvious claim 1 presently before the Examiner. Further, the requirement of claim 1 wherein 53-62% of the calories are from protein and wherein said protein is a mixture of soy protein isolates and calcium caseinate, is totally missing from the references. For these reasons, it is believed that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 USC §103(a) has been overcome. Withdrawal of that rejection is respectfully solicited.

As pointed out in the specification, the inventors desire to prepare a high protein/low carbohydrate, ready-to-drink beverage that has good taste and proper viscosity to allow the consumer to drink an entire container. The present inventors, through experimentation, have arrived at a mixture of components that establishes a cooperative relationship between those components to produce a new and unexpectedly functional ready-to-drink, high protein/low carbohydrate beverage.

As pointed out on page 2 of the application, the inventors have discovered a good tasting and physically stable liquid or RTD nutritional product that overcomes the challenges in producing a high fat, high protein beverage. The challenges overcome in producing the inventive enteral formula involve finding substitutes for simple sugars to make the product taste good and a blend of proteins that do not cause processing viscosity or shelf-life stability issues while at the same time also providing 50% of the daily recommended intake of soy in one 11

ounce serving. On top of overcoming that hurdle, was the benefits realized in using a combination of corn oil, high oleic sunflower oil, and canola oil to arrive at an oil blend that provides at least 3% of calories from omega-6 fats and at least 0.5% of calories from omega-3 fats.

While attempting to mimic the Atkins diet in terms of percent calories from fat, protein and carbohydrates, the inventive nutritional beverage utilizes a specific mixture of vegetable oils and soy protein isolates in combination with calcium caseinate and sugar substitutes to achieve a nutritional supplement with good shelf-life, physical stability, mouthfeel and taste. The Examiner's improper combination of the references under 35 USC §103 cannot be repaired by resorting *In re: Levin*.

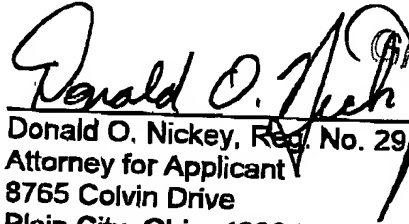
As pointed out above, the present application does establish a cooperative relationship between the selected ingredients to product a new and useful, enteral nutritional product. The Examiner's inability to find any one reference or combination of references that would anticipate or render obvious claim 1, as presently amended, is testimony to the inventive nature of this nutritional product.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that each and every objection raised by the Examiner has been overcome. Applicants' representative will contact the Examiner for a telephonic interview. Applicants earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance relative to the claims presently before the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions prior to passing this case onto allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Donald O. Nickey, Reg. No. 29,092
Attorney for Applicant
8765 Colvin Drive
Plain City, Ohio 43064
Telephone: (614) 757-5542
Facsimile: (614) 757-2243

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